

## **Utah Gas Company Allowed to Install New Type of Pipe**

By Steven Oberbeck, The Salt Lake Tribune -- Aug. 3

The Utah Public Service Commission this week gave Questar Gas Co. permission to install a new type of high-pressure plastic pipe in its system to determine how the material performs.

Questar wants to find out if the experimental product, which is not yet commercially available in the United States, eventually can be used to replace parts of its existing steel pipeline.

If Questar can use the new material it could help cut the company's pipeline maintenance and installation costs, Questar Gas spokesman Darren Shepherd said.

The new high-pressure pipe, called Polyamide 11 or PA-11, is designed to operate under pressure as high as 200 pounds per square inch.

Most existing plastic pipe used in the natural gas industry is designed to operate safely under 100 psi or less, said Joe Hilyard, spokesman for the Illinois-based Gas Technology Institute, which researches new technology for the nation's natural gas industry.

"This is really a next generation material" Hilyard said. "One of the advantages is that it can be manufactured in large diameter coils so there will not be as much work connecting shorter lengths together."

The institute will conduct lab tests on the material at the same time that Questar and other natural gas companies will be testing the product in the field, he said.

The Utah commission gave permission for Questar to install up to 15 miles of PA-11. The company now is exploring where it wants to try out the new pipe.

Exactly where the new high-pressure pipe is installed -- it currently does not meet federal pipeline safety regulations -- will depend on Questar's maintenance and construction schedule. "It definitely will be installed away from existing population centers," Shepherd said.

---

To see more of The Salt Lake Tribune, or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to <http://www.sltrib.com>

(c) 2002, The Salt Lake Tribune. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News.  
STR

Copyright © 1996-2002 by [CyberTech, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.  
Energy Central® and Energy Central Professional® are registered trademarks of CyberTech, Incorporated.

Data and information is provided for informational purposes only, and is not intended for trading purposes.

CyberTech does not warrant that the information or services of Energy Central will meet any specific requirements; nor will it be error free or uninterrupted; nor shall CyberTech be liable for any indirect, incidental or consequential damages (including lost data, information or profits) sustained or incurred in connection with the use of, operation of, or inability to use Energy Central. Other [terms of use](#) may apply.

Membership information is confidential and subject to our [privacy agreement](#).